

Woman accused of assault with knife

By Chris Collins
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

A Springfield woman is being held in the Baker County Jail on charges of assaulting a man with a knife.

Baker City Police arrested Amber Davis, 39, on July

23. A grand jury returned a true bill on the charges of second-degree and fourth-degree assault on Thursday, said District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff. Upon conviction, second-degree assault carries a mandatory minimum

sentence of five years and 10 months in prison.

Davis is accused of cutting Robert Rigsby, 34, of Baker City. Rigsby did not suffer life-threatening injuries, Shirtcliff said.

During arraignment Mon-

day in Baker County Circuit Court, Judge Greg Baxter set bail at \$110,000, with release granted upon Davis posting 10 percent of the total, or \$11,000.

Davis will return to court at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13, Shirtcliff said.

Kids, 2 and 4, OK after explosion while home alone

The (La Grande) Observer

A La Grande couple were arrested Sunday after they left their two small children by themselves where a gas explosion later occurred.

Stephen Seed, 28, La Grande, and Clarissa Seed, 30, La Grande, were arrested on charges of second-degree child neglect. They have since posted bail.

On Sunday, the La Grande Police De-

partment and La Grande Fire Department responded to a gas explosion at 504 M Ave., according to a press release.

According to LGPD Lt. Gary Bell, a neighbor called 911 about the explosion.

When they arrived, emergency personnel found a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old alone in the home where the explosion had taken place. They were transported to Grande Ronde Hospital

and later released with no injuries, according to the release.

An investigation revealed the two children were attempting to make microwave popcorn in a microwave above a gas range. A small chair had been used by one of the children to prop themselves up to access the microwave. The controls on the front of the gas range were manipulated, allowing gas to escape.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Gerald "Pat" Martin: 62, of Huntington, died July 31, 2018, at his home. Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel is in charge of arrangements. To light a candle for Pat, go to www.grayswestco.com

Margery Elizabeth Salmi: 65, of Baker City, died July 26, 2018, at her home. Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel is in charge of arrangements. To light a candle in memory of Margery, go to www.grayswestco.com

Ruby Jewel Stoaks: 74, of Baker City, died July 31, 2018, at her home with her husband and daughter-in-law by her side. The date and time of her funeral are pending and will be announced soon. To light a candle in honor of Ruby or to offer condolences for her family, go to www.colestributecenter.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Douglas Lee Smurthwaite: There will be a visitation at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, in the Relief Society Room at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2625 Hughes Lane. His funeral will begin at 2 p.m. Aug. 4 at the

church. Following the funeral, a procession will lead family and friends to Mount Hope Cemetery for Air Force honors and the vault interment. A reception will take place afterward in the multipurpose room at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the charity of one's choice through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in honor of Doug, go to www.colestributecenter.com

Janet Elaine Shepardson: Her funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 10, at Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., in Baker City. The Rev. Don Hanna will officiate. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception at the Baker United Methodist Church, 1919 Second St., immediately after the service. Memorial contributions may be made to the United Methodist Church Memorial Fund or to Heart 'n' Home Hospice through Coles Tribute Center. To light a candle or leave a condolence, go to www.colestributecenter.com

Myldred R. Perrine: Saturday, Aug. 11, at 10 a.m. at

the McEwen Bible Fellowship, 15403 Highway 7. Interment will follow the service at the Sumpter Cemetery, where Myldred will be laid to rest next to her husband, Clyde. Memorial contributions may be sent to McEwen Bible Fellowship through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle for Myldred or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
CRIMINAL TRESPASS I: Ed Braswell, 43, of Baker City, 9:41 a.m. Tuesday, in the 1800 block of 16th Street; jailed.

Crime reports
BURGLARY I: In the 200 block of Foothill Drive; James Farley Sr., 39, reported at 11:18 a.m. Monday that a burglar had entered his apartment.

Baker County Sheriff's Office
POST-PRISON SUPERVISION VIOLATION (Oregon State Parole Board warrant): James Edward Grove, 41, address unknown, 9:49 a.m. Tuesday, at Medical

Springs; jailed.
Oregon State Police
OFFENSIVE LITTERING:

Brittany Jean Seavert, 23, of La Grande, 1:18 p.m. Sunday, at Bulger Flat; cited and released; police said Seavert threw a beer can into the brush from an ATV.

POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE (Usable quantity and two prior usable quantity possession of a controlled substance convictions): Joshua Jose Alcoser, 26, of Nyssa, 11:59 p.m. Friday, on Windmill Road; jailed and later released.

FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE: Daniel Lee Dayhoff, 58, of Baker City, 5:05 p.m. Monday, on Highway 30 near Haines; cited and released; police said Dayhoff was cited after investigation of a crash in which Dayhoff was driving distracted and rear-ended a vehicle driven by Megan Amelia McGuinness, 28, of Baker City. Neither driver was injured.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS (Controlled substance): Marc Damon Woodall, 56, of Bend, 6:30 p.m. Monday, on Interstate 84 just south of Durkee; jailed and later released.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Assessor's office closed afternoon of Aug. 15

The Baker County Assessor's Office will be closed starting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 15, while employees attend events for the annual meeting of the Oregon State Assessors Association and Oregon Tax Collectors Association.

The office will re-open as usual at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Assessor Kerry Savage, who is president of the Oregon State Assessors Association, is the host for the annual conference, which will bring about 100 people to Baker City the week of Aug. 13-17.

Baker School District registration set

Registration for the Baker School District is scheduled during August.

Baker High School, South Baker, Baker Middle School and Brooklyn

- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Baker High School, 2500 E St.
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Baker High School

Keating Elementary

- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to noon at the school
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to noon at Baker High School

Haines Elementary

- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Baker High School
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to noon at Haines Elementary

Eagle Cap Innovative High School

- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m. at Baker High School
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Baker High School

Immunizations

- Please bring your insurance card and immunization records
- Monday, Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Baker High School
- Tuesday, Aug. 14 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Baker High School

Youth wellness physicals

- Aug. 1 and Aug. 2 — 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Luke's Eastern Oregon Medical Associates, 3950 17th St., students in grades 7-12 welcome

FIRE RISK

Continued from Page 1A

So far a scarcity of lightning, which sparks a significant percentage of wildfires in the region most years, has made for a much quieter season in Northeastern Oregon compared with other parts of Oregon, California and Idaho.

But with a chance of thunderstorms today, Crippen was hardly complacent.

"We're ramped up (for the potential for lightning)," he said. "The fires that have started elsewhere this year are really taking off, in California, Idaho. We haven't had the starts, but the potential is definitely there."

Fire danger higher than in 2015

The graphs that Crippen was examining in his Baker City office depict the "Energy Release Component" (ERC).

This index estimates the amount of heat a fire would produce, and it's an effective way to gauge how difficult it might be to douse a blaze, Crippen said.

Northeastern Oregon is divided into six regions, each with its own ERC, updated daily.

On Monday the ERC for each of the six regions was either at or just below the record high for the date.

That's worrisome in itself, but Crippen points out that the current ERCs are much higher than they were at this time in 2015 — less than two weeks before lightning

ignited the biggest blaze in Baker County history, the 104,000-acre Cornet/Windy Ridge fire south of Baker City.

The current ERCs range from 79 to 84.

In late July of 2015, the average among the six regions was about 60, Crippen said.

The numbers have risen rapidly during July.

Early in the month the ERCs were close to average, Crippen said.

But July, with its nearly record-breaking heat and little or no rainfall, changed the situation substantially.

"Since July 25 or so we've been right on the maximum line (for the ERC)," Crippen said.

The fire threat is severe enough that the Forest Service and other agencies have been able to tap reserve budgets to bolster their firefighting forces.

Crippen said about 18 firefighters, some from Minnesota and others from Georgia, were slated to arrive early this week to work on the Wallowa-Whitman.

Steve Meyer, wildland fire supervisor at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Baker City office, said the department is paying two private bulldozer owners \$100 a day to be available if needed.

The Forestry Department also plans to hire two engines from local rural fire protection districts on a temporary basis, Meyer said.

"That's convenient because they already know the country," he said.

The Forestry Department has

also contracted for two helicopters, one stationed in La Grande and the other in Wallowa County, to augment the region's aerial firefighting fleet, Meyer said.

Calculating the fire danger

The process starts with a series of several remote, automated weather stations scattered about the region, Crippen said.

These stations collect temperature and humidity data which are used to estimate the amount of moisture in various types of fire fuels, ranging from grass to large logs lying on the ground.

The fuels are categorized by the approximate number of hours it takes for them to dry out after a wetting rain (at least one-tenth of an inch). Grass and twigs smaller than a quarter-inch in diameter, for instance, are known as "1-hour fuels" or "fine fuels." The biggest logs, larger than 8 inches in diameter, are "10,000-hour fuels."

(There are also 10-hour, 100-hour and 1,000-hour fuels.)

Fuel moisture is a crucial component in the equation used to derive the daily ERC, Crippen said.

About once a month, employees gather various types of fuels from across the region and bake them in an oven to measure the moisture levels. The operation is designed to make sure the fuel moisture figures produced by the weather stations accurately reflect current conditions, Crippen said.

The ERC, however, is only one of the indexes that fire managers

peruse as they track the potential for trouble.

Another is the daily "burning index."

That takes into account the predicted wind speed, which can have a major effect on how quickly a fire spreads, Crippen said.

A third measurement, the "probability of ignition," is based on the idea that if 100 lit matches were dropped on the ground, how many would ignite a wildfire.

The various indexes and computer models give fire managers an idea about how a fire might behave, Crippen said, but predicting whether a fire might start, and where, is an altogether different matter.

Lightning typically starts about 80 percent of the fires on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, but human-caused fires are more common on private land and other areas under the Oregon Department of Forestry's jurisdiction.

Crippen said Northeastern Oregon has been fortunate so far this summer because lightning has been rare.

According to the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center in La Grande, which compiles fire statistics from much of the region, there have been 55 fires this year — 45 of them human-caused and just 10 sparked by lightning.

"We've only had two lightning storms, and not many ignitions, which is fine with me," Crippen

said.

HEAT

Continued from Page 1A

That has happened at the Baker City Airport in just three other months — all Augusts — since 1943.

A weather station at KBKR radio in downtown Baker City, which operated from 1928 through 1981, didn't record any months between 1928 and 1943 with more than two 100-degree days.

This July the temperature reached exactly 100 on the 5th, the 24th and the 30th. The average high temperature for the month was 91.8. Only July 1985 was hotter, with an average high of 92.0.

The Augusts with three or more triple-digit days:

1961

5 days, including the hottest four-day stretch on record at the airport — 102, 103, 103 and 106 on the first four days of the month. The high of 106 was the hottest ever recorded at the airport. There was also one triple-digit day in July 1961.

2001

3 days, with highs of 100 (6th), 100 (12th) and 101 (16th).

1972

3 days, with highs of 100 (6th), 100 (7th) and 102 (8th).

THANK YOU ENTREE SPONSORS!
From Community Connection of Baker County
These individuals, organizations and businesses are supporting our senior Dining Center for this month:

Black Distributing
Kerbs Family
Baker Vision Clinic
IMO Lois Elms
Phyllis Galloway,
IMO Harry

Eagles Auxiliary
Meadowbrook
Mtn. View RV Park
Marvin Wood Products
Judy Baker
Charles & Judy Chinn
Settler's Park

(IMO = In memory of) (IHO = In honor of)
"The food is great here! I don't fix full meals at home, so if I didn't eat here, I wouldn't get the fruits and vegetables that I like"

Thank you to Gray's West & Co., Safeway and Heart N Home for donating the cake! The Dining Center is open Monday through Friday, serving 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Closed on holidays. The suggested donation for senior lunches, for people over 60 and under 12 is \$4.50. Non-senior meal price is \$6.75. Come and enjoy visiting with friends over a good meal.
Other activities available:
Aerobic exercise, bingo, Tai Ji, Tai Chi, bridge, pinocle, dancing, blood pressure checks and more!

Community Connection of Baker County
2810 Cedar Street
541-523-6591

ELTRYM THEATER
MOVIE TIMES JULY 27-AUG 2
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT PG-13
Ethan Hunt and his team, along with some familiar allies, race against time after a mission gone wrong.
FRI-THURS: (3:30) 6:30, 9:30

MAMMA MIA!
HERE WE GO AGAIN PG-13
Five years after the events of Mamma Mia! Sophie learns about her mother's past while pregnant herself.
FRI-THURS: (4:00) 7:00, 9:40

THE EQUALIZER 2 R
Denzel Washington. Robert McCall serves justice for the exploited and oppressed, but how far will he go when that is someone he loves?
FRI-THURS: (3:45) 6:45, 9:45
1809 First, Baker City • 541-523-2522 • eltrym.com

Mobile Service
Outstanding
Computer Repair
Any issue \$40 flat rate
Text or Call for Appointment:
Dale Bogardus 541-297-5831

NOW SERVING BAKER CITY TO LA GRANDE AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN

www.outstandingcomputerrepair.com
Refurbished Desktop & Laptops For Sale
House calls (let me come to you!)
Drop Offs & Remote Services are Available
Office Hours 7am-7pm • Weekdays
All credit cards accepted    